

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY SIGNS CONSUMER PROTECTION BILLS

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today signed Senate Bills 872, 925 and 963, legislation to protect consumers in North Carolina.

"These bills are important to protecting North Carolina consumers," said Easley. "They will curb telemarketing, strengthen our securities fraud laws and prevent price gouging."

SB 872 is *An Act To Increase Protections For Telephone Subscribers Who Wish To Stop Unwanted Telephone Solicitations And For Consumers Who Enter Into Telemarketing Transactions*. It recodifies and updates the state's telemarketing statutes into a new article to take advantage of new federal legislation. Article 4 is based on the newly established federal No-Call List.

SB 925 is *An Act To Strengthen The Laws To Prevent Securities Fraud And To Clarify The Prohibition On State Contracts With Vendors That Are Incorporated In A Tax Haven Country But The United States Is The Principal Market For The Public Trading Of Their Corporation's Stock*. This bill strengthens various laws prohibiting fraud in securities transactions and dealings.

SB 963 is *An Act To Prohibit Sellers From Charging Excessive Prices On Their Merchandise And Services During Declared States Of Disaster*. It makes it a violation for any person to sell or rent or offer to sell or rent any retail during a state disaster any merchandise or services which are consumed with intent to charge a price that is unreasonably excessive under the circumstances. Senate Bill 963 also sets the criteria in determining whether a price is unreasonably excessive.

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